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CANVEY ISLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1945.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Public Health Department,
London Road,
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Canvey Island.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Seventeenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District - for the year 1945.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46, of the 11th February, 1946, this is intended to be an interim report.

It is regretted that during the period between the resignation of the Sanitary Inspector in May, 1945, and the end of the year, no fully qualified Sanitary Inspector was appointed owing to various difficulties beyond my control which, in my opinion, was unduly prejudicial to the work of Sanitary Inspection in the District.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

July, 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
 OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) comprising Island, Foreshore and Tidal Waters	..	..	..	9,071
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Book	..	..	..	3,885
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	..	..	..	7,960
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£ 42,921
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	£ 158

In the above and following statistics, several
routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Live Births:</u>	137	68	69	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	121	57	64	.. 17.2 ..
Illegitimate	16	11	5	
<u>Still Births:</u>	5	-	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Legitimate	5	-	5	.. 35.2 ..
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
<u>Deaths:</u>	83	42	41	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
				.. 10.4 ..

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal sepsis	..	1
Other maternal causes	..	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of deaths	..	..	..	6
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	43.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	49.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
DURING THE YEAR 1945

	Rate per 1,000 resident population		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales	16.1	11.4	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	19.1	13.5	54
148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	19.2	12.3	43
London Adm. County.	15.7	13.8	53
Canvey Island Urban District.	17.2	10.4	44

It will be noted that the Infant Mortality Rate compares favourably with that for England and Wales, the Birth Rate is high and the Death Rate is low - in fact, the lowest for several years.

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

<u>Canvey Island</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate.</u>
1941	16.0	15.0	50.5
1942	22.7	13.4	36.5
1943	20.3	17.1	75.0
1944	19.6	14.0	67.1
1945	17.2	10.4	43.7

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1945.

Age	Deaths.			No. of deaths which apply to district.
	No. in district	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	
Under 1 year	3	-	3	6
1 and under 2	1	-	-	1
2 " " 5	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15	-	-	-	-
15 " " 25	2	2	3	3
25 " " 35	-	-	2	2
35 " " 45	2	1	1	2
45 " " 55	3	-	1	4
55 " " 65	8	1	9	16
65 " " 75	13	-	8	21
75 and upwards	14	-	14	28
TOTAL	46	4	41	83

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND DURING 1945

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes	42	41	83
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2	4
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	2	-	2
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute infective encephalitis	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND DURING 1945

(Continued)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
13. Cancer of buccav: & oesoph;(M) uterus(F)	-	2	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
15. Cancer of breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	7	5	12
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	4	7
19. Heart disease	11	9	20
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	4	1	5
21. Bronchitis	2	2	4
22. Pneumonia	-	4	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	5	-	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
28. Nephritis	-	1	1
29. Puer: and post-abortion: sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	-	1	1
32. Con: Mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	-	2	2
33. Suicide	-	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	-	-	-
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	2	2	4

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities, (b) Ambulance Facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

The facts and figures shown under Sections C, D and E have been supplied by the new Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C. A. Kortegas - who took up duty in this District on the 1st February, 1946 and are based on records of the late Sanitary Inspector who resigned in May, 1945.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

1. The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. Many samples of the raw and treated water are analysed by the Southend Waterworks resident Chemist and in addition samples are submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories.
3. There are no known water supplies which are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
4. 2,771 houses were connected to the Southend Water Company's mains at the end of 1945 - an increase of 106.
5. There are 5 standpipes situated in various parts of the Island and these serve roads which are without water mains.

Drainage and Sewerage. There are 561 connections to the sewer affecting 1,098 properties. 24 connections were made during 1945.

Visits and Inspections. January, 1945 to May, 1945.

102 visits were made for Public Health purposes. 7 Statutory Notices were served, all were complied with.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928 and 1936. 7 Licences were issued during the year.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year 1945. 60 inspections were made in respect of repairs carried out under the Housing Acts, for the period January, 1945 to May, 1945.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply. At the end of the year 6 farms and other premises used as Dairies were registered and 20 retail purveyors were also registered.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Two licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and two Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted. The Licences were supplementary licences for the retail sale of the Milks mentioned above, in this district.

Meat and Other Foods. No slaughterhouse exists in the District.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Examination of the table on page 7 of all cases of notifiable infectious disease which occurred on the Island during 1945 again shows that the bill of health is an excellent one.

There was no confirmed clinical case of diphtheria throughout the period. There was an increase in the number of cases of measles, which was general throughout the country.

It is worthy of note that according to the figures of the Registrar-General, there were no deaths from any notifiable infectious diseases.

Two contacts to cases of smallpox and one contact to typhus fever were kept under surveillance during the required period, and I am glad to report that no cases occurred in the District.

Tuberculosis. I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition. The majority of the cases come from outside the District, chiefly from the Greater London area, having already been notified and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

During the year, the following cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	4	4	8
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	5

It is regretted that the following deaths occurred:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	2	2	4
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

Scabies. The number of confirmed cases of scabies brought to the notice of this Department has fallen considerably since the end of the War in Europe, but where in-patient treatment was necessary, this was provided at the County Council's Hospitals and Institutions, although the number of cases coming within this category was very small, and not always within my knowledge, as scabies is not a notifiable disease in the general sense of the word.

Venereal Diseases. Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the local sanitary authority.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The scheme in this district is progressing satisfactorily, but the migratory nature of the population adds to the local difficulties.

At the end of December, 1945, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as follows:-

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>
61.2%	69%

GENERAL REMARKS.

The following information regarding incidents, etc. in the Canvey Island Urban District during the war may be of interest:

No. of sirens	1215
No. of H.E. Bombs	250
No. of V.I's	1
No. of V.2's	6
No. of Incendiaries	2000 approx.
No. of A/A shells	17
No. of Planes crashed	3
No. of Oil Bombs	2

In the Summary Report of the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st March, 1945, it is stated that in Essex, which was part of bomb alley, there was a record of fortitude and resource similar to London.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Sex			
	At ages														Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.	M.	F.
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over					
Scarlet fever	6 (1)	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	4 (1)	-	2 (1)	4	
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	(2)	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(2)	-	-	-	
Measles	125	5	8	12	7	19	71	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	64	(2)	
Acute Pneumonia	8	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	6	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	
Acute Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	
<u>Non-civilian:</u>																		
Acute Infective Hepatitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the
diagnosis was corrected.

